

## Lesson: The Order of Adjectives in a Sentence

### What are adjectives?

Adjectives describe nouns (people, places, things, ideas).

*a quiet street*

*an expensive watch*

### When we use more than one adjective

English follows a natural order:

**Opinion → Size → Age → Shape → Colour → Origin → Material → Purpose → Noun**

We don't always use every category, but the order stays the same.

| Type            | Examples                    |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Opinion</b>  | lovely, boring, difficult   |
| <b>Size</b>     | big, small, tiny, huge      |
| <b>Age</b>      | new, old, modern, ancient   |
| <b>Shape</b>    | round, long, narrow         |
| <b>Colour</b>   | red, black, green           |
| <b>Origin</b>   | British, Italian, Chinese   |
| <b>Material</b> | wooden, metal, leather      |
| <b>Purpose</b>  | running shoes, office chair |

### Two important rules learners often confuse

#### Rule A — Commas for the same category

Use a comma only when adjectives describe **the same type of idea**.

**a calm, friendly teacher**

(opinion + opinion)

Do **NOT** use commas when the adjectives belong to different categories:

**a calm friendly British teacher**

(opinion → opinion → origin)

## **Rule B — When adjectives are in the same category**

If adjectives are from the same category, there is no strict rule about order. We simply choose the order that sounds natural:

**a long, narrow road** (natural)

*a narrow, long road* (understandable but awkward)

### **Example 1**

**She bought a lovely small British car.**

Order: Opinion → Size → Origin → Noun

### **Example 2**

**They moved into a spacious, modern flat.**

Order: Opinion → Age → Noun

### **Example 3**

**He adopted a friendly little brown dog.**

Order: Opinion → Size → Colour → Noun

### **Example 4**

**We crossed an old stone bridge.**

Order: Age → Material → Noun

### **Example 5**

**I need a comfortable black leather office chair.**

Order: Opinion → Colour → Material → Purpose → Noun

## Practice

Put the adjectives in the correct order.

1.

*(French / small / lovely)* café

2.

*(warm / woollen / grey)* scarf

3.

*(metal / round / old)* clock

4.

*(comfortable / blue / plastic)* chair

5.

*(Italian / elegant / leather)* shoes

6.

*(wooden / heavy / large)* table

7.

*(young / talented / British)* musician

8.

*(red / small / round)* apple

9.

*(silk / beautiful / Chinese)* dress

10.

*(modern / spacious / city)* apartment